

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1011

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF IREX DELEGATION TO LENINGRAD

REF: A. STATE 19596

 B. LENINGRAD 0090

DEPT FOR CU/EE

MOSCOW FOR P&C

1. IREX DELEGATION VISIT TO LENINGRAD JANUARY 26 THROUGH 28
VISITED DORMS, CONFERRED WITH EXCHANGEES, AND WAS MARKED BY CALLS
ON PRINCIPAL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND LEADERSHIP IN CITY --
LGU, LENINGRAD POLYTECHNIC, AND RIMSKY-KORSAKOV CONSERVATORY
(HERTZEN INSTITUTE OMITTED DUE LACK OF TIME), AS WELL AS TWO
MAJOR ARCHIVES: PUSHKIN HOUSE AND THE LENINGRAD BRANCH OF THE
INSTITUTE OF HISTORY (IOII). CENTRAL HISTORICAL ARCHIVES (TSGIA)
NEVER DID RECEIVE PERMISSION FROM MOSCOW TO RECEIVE DELEGATION
(THEREBY REMAINING IN HARMONY WITH POLICY THEY OFTEN PURSUE WITH
IREX'S EXCHANGEES), BUT TSGIA DEPUTY DIRECTOR ATTENDED A U.S.-
HOSTED SOCIAL EVENT HELD FOR THE GROUP, UNDERLINING BY HER
PRESENCE AS SHE HAD IN OTHER WAYS THAT PROBLEM WAS NOT A LOCAL ONE.
P&C OFFICER TOOK PART IN ALL MEETINGS. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME POINTS OF NOTE: (A) GROUP MET WITH LGU RECTOR MAKAROV
AND NEW PRORECTOR SPESHNEV (CF. REF "B") AND DISCUSSED EXCHANGEE
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HOUSING AND ACCESS PROBLEMS, WITH MAKAROV GIVING USUAL ANSWER

THAT ACCESS PROBLEMS NOT REALLY LGU'S AFFAIR, FAINTLY DAMNING MHE FOR SLOWNESS IN TRANSMITTING DATA, ETC., PROMISING A NEW DORMITORY COMPLEX SOMETIME NEXT YEAR THAT WOULD PROBABLY SOLVE A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT HOUSING PROBLEMS (MANY LGU STUDENTS ARE HOUSED OUTSIDE UNIVERSITY HOUSING FACILITIES) AND, IN A PINCH, SUGGESTING THE POSSIBILITY THAT IREXERS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPENDENTS MIGHT IN FUTURE BE HOUSED IN HOTELS -- A POSSIBILITY IREX DID NOT PURSUE. KASSOF GAVE MAKAROV A BRIEF SKETCH OF SOME OF THE BROADER EXCHANGE POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE AND ENDED UP INVITING HIM TO THE U.S. IN THE COMING YEAR, EITHER AS PERHAPS PART OF THE MGU GROUP OR SEPARATELY. MAKAROV, WHO SPEAKS APPROXIMATELY 3 PLUS LEVEL ENGLISH SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN THE INVITATION, FAVORING A SEPARATE VISIT NEXT WINTER. MOST ENCOURAGING ASPECT OF THE MEETING, ASIDE FROM BEING FIRST SUCH FULL-LEADERSHIP TOUR D'HORIZON BETWEEN IREX AND LUG IN RECENT MEMTAY, WAS THE WAY SPEXHNEV HAD MEETING ORGANIZED, WITH A BRIEFING PAPER IN THE HANDS OF THE RECTOR AND APPLICABLE DEANS AND ASSISTANT PRESENT TO ANSWER SPECIFICS IF NECESSARY. (B) KASSOF & CO. WERE ALSO RECEIVED BY RECTORATE OF LENINGRAD POLYTECHNIC, ANOTHER FIRST-TIME VISIT, THE MORE WORTH-WHILE AS IT IS ONE OF THE SCHOOLS OFTEN ON THE SENDING SIDE OF THE EXCHANGE (TWO EXCHANGEES IN U.S. AT PRESENT, THREE MORE SCHEDULED FOR NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR.) AGAIN, MUTUAL BRIEFINGS EXCHANGED WHILE PROGRAM OFFICER HOLM MET WITH WIVES OF EXCHANGEES PRESENTLY IN U.S. (C) VISITS TO ARCHIVES ALSO, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, FIRST SUCH FOR IREX LEADERSHIP. ARCHIVAL ACCESS PROBLEMS DISCUSSED WITH ARCHIVE DIRECTORS, WHO LAYED MOST OF BLAME FOR DIFFICULTIES ON INADEK TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION AS TO SCHOLARS' CREDENTIALS AND NEEDS FROM MOSCOW. WIDER DISSEMINATION OF EXCHANGEE WORK-PLANS AGREED UPON AS USEFUL.

3. IN GENERAL, VISIT MARKED NEW HIGH-WATER MARK FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN CONGEN AND LENINGRAD HIGHER EDUCATION OFFICIALDOM. AS IREX OPERATIONS CUT ACROSS VARIOUS SOVIET ADMINISTRATIVE LINES (PUSHKIN HOUSE AND LOII UNDER ACADEMY OF SCIENCE, LGU UNDER USSR MHE, CONSERVATORY AND POLYTECHNIC UNDER MHE OF THE RSFSR, AND TSGIA UNDER MAIN ARCHIVES DIRECTORATE), CONGEN CONTACTED LENINGRAD CITY SOVIET HIGHER EDUCATION OFFICE AND DIPAGENCY AND REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING DRAFT PROGRAM FOR DELEGATION. REPLY WAS THAT CONGEN COULD PROCEED DIRECTLY WITH INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED -- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A HEALTHY, AND, AS IT PROVED, EFFECTIVE PRECEDENT, CONFIRMING OUR SUSPICIONS THAT THERE IS NO ONE OFFICE WHICH CAN CUT ACROSS SUCH LINES. ON SOCIAL SIDE, TURN-OUT FOR P&C OFFICER'S RECEPTION FOR GROUP WAS CLOSE TO 100 O/O, INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATION FROM CITY HALL, DIPAGENCY, ALL INSTITUTIONS VISITED (EXCEPT LOII), AND LENINGRAD PRESS. LATTER, HOWEVER, FAILED TO MARK VISIT.

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